DPRK(/country/prk)

Humanitarian Groups' Collaboration Speeds Aid to North Korea

News and Press Release

Source: CARE(/organization/care)

Posted: 21 Aug 1997

Originally published: 21 Aug 1997

The NGO Consortium:	North Korean Food Monitoring Project
CARE	
World Vision	
Mercy Corps	
Catholic Relief Services	
Amigos Internacionales	

WASHINGTON, August 21, 1997 -- A consortium of five international humanitarian agencies is sending staff to North Korea this weekend to assist in the distribution of much-needed food to help prevent malnutrition and starvation exacerbated by a drought affecting the country.

Amigos Internacionales, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps and World Vision each has designated a relief expert to monitor the distribution of 55,000 metric tons of corn provided by the U.S. government to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

The agreement among the five non-governmental organizations (NGOs) marks the first time such a group has collaborated with the WFP to help stave off a famine.

The five relief experts will expand the capacity of existing WFP food monitors to help ensure food assistance in North Korea is delivered to those most in need. The group is scheduled to arrive in North Korea August 23, to coincide with the first shipment of corn. CARE will be responsible for financial management and reporting during the three-month project.

Two consecutive years of natural disasters, including hail storms, floods and drought, have resulted in severe food shortages, most recently the destruction of 70 percent of North Korea's rice and corn crops. First-hand reports from relief agencies and government organizations describe widespread food shortages and high levels of malnutrition among children. An estimated 23 million North Koreans, including 2.4 million children, are threatened with starvation.

WFP estimates that 800,000 tons of food still are needed between now and the fall harvest to help prevent widespread famine.

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Primary country:

Democratic People's Republic of Korea(/country/prk)

Source:

CARE(/organization/care)

Format:

News and Press Release(/updates?list=News%20and%20Press%20Release%20Updates&advanced-search=%28F8%29)

Language:

English(/updates?list=English%20Updates&advanced-search=%28L267%29)

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Posted: 13 Jul 2024

Originally published: 13 Jul 2024

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Posted: 28 Mar 2016

Originally published: 27 Mar 2016

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Source: Govt. Honduras(/organization/govt-honduras)

Posted: 10 May 2013

Originally published: 10 May 2013